



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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February 4, 1994

TO: File

FROM: Susan M. White, Senior Reclamation Biologist *SMW*

RE: Exploration Plan, CEP - 94A, Co-Op Mining Co., Bear Canyon Mine, ACT/015/025, Emery County, Utah

SYNOPSIS

Co-Op Mining Company proposes to drill four exploration drill holes. The drill holes are adjacent to but not within the current permit area. Less than 250 tons of coal will be removed in the proposed exploration. This review pertains only to items relating to biology and revegetation.

ANALYSIS

Several deficiencies in the application were noted as listed below.

1. The proposal refers to the use of a seed mixture that is used within the permit area for similar reclaimed areas. The exploration permit is a stand alone document and must include the seed mixture that the operator is proposing to use.
2. The proposal does not state the methods of seeding.
3. The proposal states that golden eagle nests occur adjacent to the proposed drilling areas but not within a half mile. The operator must cite the source of this information.
4. The proposal states that no threatened or endangered plant species have been identified in the exploration area. The proposal must state how this was determined.

RECOMMENDATION

A Minor Coal Exploration Permit cannot be issued by the Division until the above noted deficiencies are resolved.

